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No 0000103



5RA-14

JAN 16 1990

Honorable John Glenn
United States Senator
200 North High Street
Suite 600
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Senator Glenn:

Thank you for your letter concerning the status of the Skinner Landfill site in Butler County, Ohio. I would like to add several points that appeared to be missing from Mr. Albert H. Neman's letter dated December 12, 1989.

In 1976, State and Federal agencies became aware through local sources that hazardous waste was being dumped at the Skinner site. Once access was gained and upon further field investigation, a lagoon was discovered that covered less than one acre and contained drums, cyanide ash, phosphorus, and used flame throwers. It is suspected that the drums contain solvent and pesticide intermediates. Please note that mustard gas, nerve gas, incendiary bombs or explosive devices were not found.

In 1978, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) attempted to force the landowners to remove the drums. Unfortunately, in a subsequent court case, the presiding Judge ruled that the drums should remain because the drums did not pose a danger. However, the same Judge did prohibit the Skinners from accepting hazardous waste.

Recently, the Skinners started to accept large quantities of inert demolition waste. Acceptance of demolition material is currently unregulated and does not require a license or a permit. However, as indicated in Mr. Neman's letter, the site was cited for several violations for accepting waste classified as solid. Please note that these violations were not for acceptance of industrial/hazardous waste, nor did State or Federal agencies receive any reports from local sources that hazardous/industrial waste was dumped at the site since 1978. However, since the site accepted solid waste without a permit, the OEPA is currently in the process of ordering the acceptance of any material at the Skinner site to be halted.

Under the authority of the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation Liability Act (CERCLA), the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) initiated a Remedial Investigation Feasibility Study (RI/FS) in March 1985. The duration of this process depends on the site complexity and other factors. The current schedule for completion of the RI/FS is Fall 1990.

The Skinner site is approximately 70 acres overall of which only five acres has known demolition, solid, and hazardous waste areas. Very little information is available concerning the nature of disposal activities, if any, throughout the remaining 65 acres. Consequently, this site requires more field work than what is usually required. The site owner has also made access difficult and has repeatedly interfered with field work resulting in delays. U.S. EPA has issued an Administrative Order to gain access and to cease interference with field work and plans to issue a second order.

I would also like to point out that a Phase I Remedial Investigation Report, dated February 1989, has been prepared. Preliminary indications are:

- 1) This site's current condition does not warrant an emergency action.
- 2) On-site groundwater near the lagoon area is contaminated but does not appear to be migrating offsite, though trace amounts of contaminants have been detected in Mill Creek.
- 3) Nearby residential water supplies do not appear to be impacted from the site.
- 4) Additional work is necessary to further characterize the lagoon, investigate other areas of the site, and confirm contaminant pathways.

The additional work is ongoing. U.S. EPA will then proceed into a Feasibility Study (FS) phase that evaluates alternatives to remedy potential problems. The feasibility and cost effectiveness of removing and treating hazardous waste contained in the lagoon area will be considered.

~~If you have any additional questions concerning this site, please let me know.~~

CONCURRENCE REQUESTED

Sincerely yours, ~~_____~~ RERB, OH/MN SECTION

APPROV	UNIT 1	Original signed by:	UNIT 2	UNIT 3	UNIT 4	UNIT 5	UNIT 6	UNIT 7	UNIT 8
UNIT 1	UNIT 2	UNIT 3	UNIT 4	UNIT 5	UNIT 6	UNIT 7	UNIT 8	UNIT 9	UNIT 10

DISK INFORMATION:

Valdas V. Adamkus
Regional Administrator

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